

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated July 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated March 15, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 57 and 60 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 48-56 (Cancelled).

Claim 57 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to information terminals and printers located in different places, through a network, the apparatus comprising:

5. user information storage means for storing user information regarding information terminals which are permitted to access the printing information distributing apparatus;

printing reservation information storage means for storing printing reservation information;

10. ~~information terminal~~ authenticating means for acquiring, when one of the information terminals accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network,

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identification information indicating a user of the one of the
information terminals accessing the printing information
15 distribution apparatus, and for performing authentication to
~~determine whether or not~~ of the acquired identification
information user of said one of the information terminals is
~~stored in~~ with reference to the user information storage means;
printing reservation means for (i) transmitting a printing
20 reservation screen image for use in reservation for printing
desired printing information to the information terminal, when
the ~~information terminal~~ authenticating means ~~authenticates said~~
~~one of the information terminals~~ determines that the acquired
identification information is stored in the user information
25 storage means, (ii) receiving [[a]] printing reservation
information of for printing the desired printing information from
said one of the information terminals, the printing reservation
information including a name of the desired printing information,
a printing medium type indicating a type of medium for printing,
30 and a number of prints, and (iii) storing the received printing
reservation information ~~indicating the desired printing~~
~~information~~ and the acquired identification information
~~indicating the user of the one of the information terminals~~
~~accessing the printing information distribution apparatus, which~~

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35 ~~is acquired by the information terminal authenticating means,~~ in
the printing reservation information storage means, in
association with the received printing reservation information
and the acquired identification information;

printer authenticating means for authenticating one of the
40 printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing
information distributing apparatus through the network;

identification information fetching means for fetching
identification information which indicates a user of the one of
the information terminals accessing the printing information
45 distribution apparatus and is transmitted from said one of the
printers through the network when the printer authenticating
means authenticates said one of the printers;

printing information generating means for (i) retrieving
from the printing reservation information storage means the
50 stored printing reservation information based on the
identification information fetched by the identification
information fetching means, (ii) reading the printing reservation
information associated with the fetched identification
information from the printing reservation information storage
means, and (iii) generating printing information based on the
55 read printing reservation information; and

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printing information transmitting means for transmitting,
through the network, the printing information generated by the
printing information generating means to said one of the printers
60 which accesses the printing information distribution apparatus,
and causing said one of the printers to print out the desired
printing information.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented). The printing information
distributing apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the
printing information transmitting means transmits charge
information indicating a printing charge for the printing
5 information to said one of the printers, and transmits the
printing information to said one of the printers when the
printing charge is paid for said one of the printers.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented). The printing information
distributing apparatus according to claim 58, wherein each of the
printers includes money entry means for receiving each of
predetermined kinds of money, and said one of the printers prints
5 out the printing information transmitted by the printing
information transmitting means, when money is entered into the

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money entry means to pay for the charge indicated by the charge informati

Claim 60 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to information terminals and printers located in different places, through a network, the apparatus comprising:

- 5 a user information storage device which stores user information regarding information terminals which are permitted to access the printing information distributing apparatus;
- a printing reservation information storage device which stores printing reservation information;
- 10 an ~~information terminal~~ authenticating device which acquires, when one of the information terminals accesses the printing information distributing apparatus though the network, identification information indicating a user of the one of the information terminals accessing the printing information
- 15 distribution apparatus, and performs authentication ~~to determine whether or not~~ of the acquired identification information user of said one of the information terminals is stored in with reference to the user information storage device;
- a printing reservation device which (i) transmits a printing
- 20 reservation screen image for use in reservation for printing

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desired printing information to the information terminal, when
the ~~information terminal authenticating device authenticates said~~
~~one of the information terminals~~ determines that the acquired
identification information is stored in the user information

25 storage means, (ii) receives ~~[[a]]~~ printing reservation
information of ~~for printing~~ the desired printing information from
said one of the information terminals, the printing reservation
information including a name of the desired printing information,
a printing medium type indicating a type of medium for printing,
30 and a number of prints, and (iii) stores the received printing
reservation information ~~indicating the desired printing~~
~~information~~ and the acquired identification information
~~indicating the user of the one of the information terminals~~
~~accessing the printing information distribution apparatus, which~~
35 ~~is acquired by the information terminal authenticating device,~~ in
the printing reservation information storage device, in
association with the received printing reservation information
and the acquired identification information;

a printer authenticating device which authenticates one of
40 the printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing
information distributing apparatus through the network;

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an identification information fetching device which fetches
identification information which indicates a user of the one of
the information terminals accessing the printing information
45 distribution apparatus and is transmitted from said one of the
printers through the network when the printer authenticating
device authenticates said one of the printers;

a printing information generating device which (i) retrieves
from the printing reservation information storage device the
50 stored printing reservation information based on the
identification information fetched by the identification
information fetching device, (ii) reads the printing reservation
information associated with the fetched identification
information from the printing reservation information storage
55 device, and (iii) generates printing information based on the
read printing reservation information; and

a printing information transmitting device which transmits,
through the network, the printing information generated by the
printing information generating device to said one of the
60 printers which accesses the printing information distribution
apparatus, and causes said one of the printers to print out the
desired printing information.

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Claim 61 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the printing information transmitting device transmits charge information indicating a printing charge for the printing
5 information to said one of the printers, and transmits the printing information to said one of the printers when the printing charge is paid for said one of the printers.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 61, wherein each of the printers includes a money entry device which receives each of predetermined kinds of money, and said one of the printers prints
5 out the printing information transmitted by the printing information transmitting device, when money is entered into the money entry device to pay for the charge indicated by the charge information.